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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : )  
HAJIME YAMAMOTO, et al. )  
Application No.: 09/132,746 )  
Filed: August 12, 1998 )  
For: FIBROUS MATERIAL, )  
PRODUCTION PROCESS OF THE )  
FIBROUS MATERIAL, INK- )  
ABSORBING MEMBER, )  
TREATING PROCESS OF THE )  
INK-ABSORBING MEMBER, INK :  
TANK CONTAINER AND INK )  
CARTRIDGE :  
Examiner: J. Guarriello  
Group Art Unit: 1771  
April 23, 2002

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APR 25 2002  
TC 170U

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

Europe 743,185  
Europe 691,207  
Europe 562,733

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated February 22, 2002, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Other documents cited in the Search Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statements dated October 5, 2000 and April 1, 1999.

The Examiner is referred to the European Examiner's comments on the documents cited above.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney for Applicants

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